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These views as to the English Commonwealth, and this larger and more interesting significance of Vane, American writers have fully presented. Of these views Mr. Ireland has no knowledge—or, knowing them, is not impressed. They are worthy of notice, if only to be pronounced unsound and extravagant. While finding Mr. Ireland's book lacking in some ways, its good purpose, scholarship, and sound republican spirit lead the reviewer to commend it as throwing much light upon its hero and the age in which he moved.

William Pitt Graf von Chatham. Von ALBERT VON RUVILLE. (Stuttgart and Berlin: J. G. Cotta'sche Buchhandlung Nachfolger. 1905. Three vols., pp. xii, 447; viii, 480; viii, 456.)

THIS is a book of unusual merit. Unfortunately, the author had no sooner published it than M. Mantoux discovered a mass of material for the history of England in the eighteenth century in the unpublished reports of parliamentary proceedings transmitted by the French ambassadors in London to the French government. These would undoubtedly have thrown much light on some of the episodes of Pitt's early parliamentary career. Similarly, the author would undoubtedly have found some shreds of information in the archives at Vienna, Dresden, and St. Petersburg, and might have added something by consulting the *Sbornik*.

These sources, however, could have yielded but little information which was not already at the writer's disposal and which he has given us in a book whose construction is a model. He has analyzed his subject carefully and has allotted to each part of it its proper space. He has in addition remarkable ability in presenting in a brief space the principal elements in a situation, an excellent example of which is afforded in his résumé of the political, military, and economic conditions in America before the Seven Years' War. Again, he has exercised admirable judgment and great critical acumen in treating his facts. In particular he possesses what most English writers lack, a proper appreciation of the importance of continental affairs in English history. As to matters military, which play such an enormous part in this period, he shows unusual information; and, while wasting no time over military details, he is able to explain the essential features of a campaign in such a manner that the veriest military tyro can grasp the situation.

In his judgment of Pitt the author is so far from being an advocate that he errs rather in being too severe. This is probably due in part to a healthy reaction against the usual uncritical panegyric which one finds in most English books on Pitt. Nevertheless, it is possible to go too far in reaction, and this von Ruville seems to have done. This is particularly the case when he attempts to explain the reasons for Pitt's acts and policies. He is constantly attributing to Pitt the meanest motives, as in regard to his attitude toward Walpole, which the author

contends was largely influenced by Pitt's expectations of a legacy from the Duchess of Marlborough. Similarly in regard to Pitt's attitude toward the statesmen who made the Treaty of Paris, von Ruville contends that Pitt was implacable because of another inheritance which he was expecting. These explanations are at the best but conjectures, and needless conjectures. In the case of Pitt's leaving office in 1762 the case is stronger, and it is likely, as von Ruville contends, that Pitt wished to avoid being responsible for a change of policy, which he saw was inevitable.

Even in matters which need no explanation on the basis of personal motives, von Ruville seems anxious to supply such a motive. Thus when Pitt advocates a partial reform of the parliamentary franchise, and one which would conserve many of the rotten boroughs, von Ruville argues that this was done because Pitt did not wish to ruin his children's opportunities for securing seats in Parliament. This is absurd. Pitt's suggestion was characteristically English, and resembles in many ways Cromwell's attempt at reform made a century earlier.

Von Ruville's conclusions as to Pitt's statesmanship are more nearly in accord with the traditional view. Pitt, he holds, was the greatest of English ministers. It must be admitted that the author gives the reader more reason for this view than any other of the biographers of the great Englishman. He shows clearly what the merits of Pitt were, and this is particularly the case in regard to Pitt's ability as a war minister. Probably for the first time, the reader understands why Pitt is to be credited with the victories of the Seven Years' War. Pitt's measures are detailed, his accuracy in judgment clearly demonstrated, and his keenness of intelligence and thorough knowledge of military affairs proved. But not everything is ascribed to Pitt. Von Ruville makes it clear that the conquests of Havana and of Manila were not due to his measures, as is generally asserted.

Pitt's statesmanship, says von Ruville, is noteworthy for its transition character. He was one who built upon old methods of government and old measures of policy, while at the same time attempting new measures and new policies which he dimly perceived must be the measures and the policies of the future. His successes and his failures sprang alike from this transitional character of his statesmanship. It is an acute and a true judgment, and explains why Pitt was not capable of ruling England after the Seven Years' War.

Von Ruville's attitude toward Newcastle and Bute must be noted and commended. He places both much higher than is usually done. He makes it clear that Newcastle was a man of considerable ability, good common sense, and ceaseless industry. Similarly he shows that Bute was by no means the insignificant politician that he is usually represented as being.

A number of minor criticisms may be offered. The author should have used at least Lecky and Moses Coit Tyler in his treatment of

American affairs. Again, he should have been more careful in his copying and in his proof-reading. A list of errata would include the following: "mine" for my, "Vandreuil" for Vaudreuil, "Fitsch" for Fitch, "stakes" for strikes, "Torysm", "an" for and, "£15,000" for £150,000, "Grag" for Gray, "engage" for enrage, "Jes" for Yes, "Bonawen" and "Boscaven" for Boscawen, "was" for what, "Gentleman Magazine", "breathing in" for breaking in, "Thankerville" for Tankerville. Note 2 on page 422, volume I., and note 3 on page 332, volume II., are full of misprints, and the latter is unintelligible. The translation of "all Tuesday" by *jeden Dienstag* completely changes the meaning of the original. There is no Berwickshire; the grandfather of Pitt looks very much like an interloper in spite of von Ruville's arguments to the contrary; the date of Pitt's baptism is given in the *Dictionary of National Biography*; finally the dreadful mixture of foreign words injected into the text is inexcusable.

Collection de Documents Inédits sur l'Histoire Économique de la Révolution Française publiés par le Ministère de l'Instruction Publique: Département du Loiret, Cahiers de Doléances du Bailliage d'Orléans pour les États Généraux de 1789. Publiés par CAMILLE BLOCH, Inspecteur Général des Bibliothèques et des Archives, Archiviste Honoraire du Département du Loiret. Tome I. (Orléans: Imprimerie Orléanaise. 1906. Pp. lxxvi, 800); *Département du Rhone, Documents relatifs à la Vente des Biens Nationaux.* Publiés par SÉBASTIEN CHARLÉTY, Professeur à l'Université de Lyon. Tome I. (Lyon: R. Schneider. 1906. Pp. xviii, 722.)

AN account has already appeared in this REVIEW (XI. 534-537) of the historical commission established by the French government three years ago for the publication of documentary material relating to the economic history of the French Revolution. This commission, which takes its place beside that originally established by Guizot—long so well-known for the many important volumes which have appeared under its auspices in the vast series of *Documents Inédits*—owes its existence first and foremost to the enlightened socialist, Jaurès, who properly urged that the political phases of the revolutionary movement had received far more attention than the perhaps more fundamental and essential economic changes, which are still the subject of the most bitter differences of opinion. The commission is made up of well-known scholars under the chairmanship of Jaurès himself—Aulard, Brette, Bloch, Caron, Esmein, Gide, Glasson, Lavis, Lévassier, Sagnac, Sée, Seignobos, and others, most of whom are distinguished for their researches in the field in question. The first great undertaking decided upon was the publication of the local cahiers and, second, of the inventories and other material having to do with the assumption and